

# THE FLOOD

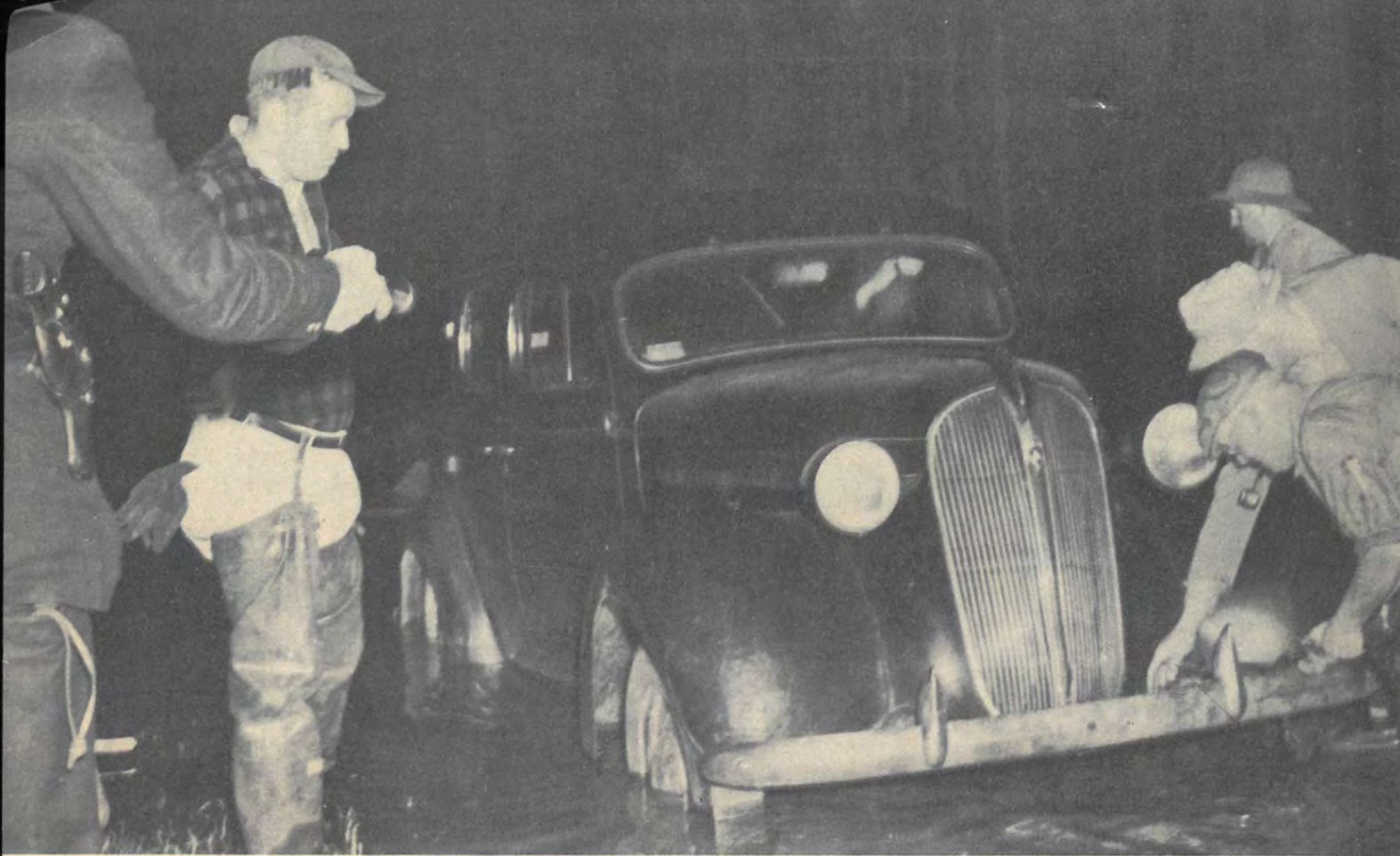
AT RUTLAND, VERMONT, JUNE, 1947

A STORY IN HEADLINES, TEXT AND PICTURES



75 CENTS





Parked automobile towed through rapidly rising waters

Rescued in a rowboat

"My home is gone, my dear ones scattered."





# Rain Swollen Waters Burst Through and Around East Pittsford Dam, Plunging the City of Rutland Into Darkness—500 Families Are Flooded Out



Pals, through thick and thin, these two share the same cot at Rutland armory

Pipe Lines to  
Rutland Reservoir  
Torn Away—State  
Of Emergency Is  
Declared—National  
Guard Mobilized

Special to the Free Press

**RUTLAND, June 3.**—Rain-swollen waters burst through and around the East Pittsford power dam on East Creek six miles northeast of here shortly after 8 o'clock tonight, tearing away pipe lines to the Rutland reservoir, plunging the city into darkness and forcing the evacuation of more than 500 families from Mill Village and lower areas of Rutland City.

Declaring a state of emergency about 9 o'clock tonight, Mayor Wayne N. Temple, through the local radio station, mobilized the Rutland National Guard company, American Legion and other veterans organizations for emergency service.

As fast as possible families living in the areas of River, Bank, Water, and Park streets, and the Fair Grounds area, were moved from their homes as the rapidly rising waters of Otter Creek—into which East Creek flows in the western city limits of Rutland—came up as high as nine feet, practically covering the first floor of all buildings and homes in these areas.

At Mill Village, one mile north of Rutland, several families were evacuated as the East Creek waters flooded the town to a depth of 15 feet in many places.

#### Power Plant Flooded

The Cleveland ave., power plant of the Central Vermont Public Service Corp., was flooded by nine feet of water, and at 9:30 this evening all power in the city was cut off. A late report said that Rutland will be powerless until about noon tomorrow, as the power units will have to be dried and cleaned before being put back into use.

The Rutland Herald reported that power company workers labored in the rising waters until the last possible minute before evacuating the building, which is north of the city. The officials of the company said the waters rose, finally, to above the level of the disastrous 1927 flood. One official told a reporter that there was about nine feet of water in the building, and that nearly all of the generators were under water at 10 o'clock.





Families evacuate only minutes before flood waters pour into homes



Rescue by boat as firemen form human chain

Red Cross station established night of disaster to register evacuees checked in at Armory



# Rutland Herald Unable to Print Story of Flood

## Tuesday's Disaster Took No Account of Newspaper Plant

(Written for the Associated Press by Managing Editor Gerald E. McLaughlin of the Rutland Herald)

RUTLAND, VT., June 4. (P)—It's pretty hard to sit in an office chair for 24 hours and watch your city's biggest story in years come into town in the other fellow's newspaper. But that's what we're doing today at the Herald.

We have been watching this flood story develop since yesterday morning but no one realized it was going to wind up in disaster which has paralyzed us and brought our busy, small city's life to a dead stop.

As I write this, the people of Rutland are standing in silent rows along the banks of each street, looking over the wreckage of Rutland's west end.

Some of our men are wading through muck, trying to make an official check of the number of homes destroyed by the roaring waters.

### Makes Housing Problem Worse

Housing was such a problem here before that even the loss of a dozen homes will be keenly felt.

People who rely on the Herald for their morning news of life in this small area we serve are crowding in front of our bulletin windows hardly believing that a flood or lack of electricity could keep this 153 year-old paper from publishing.

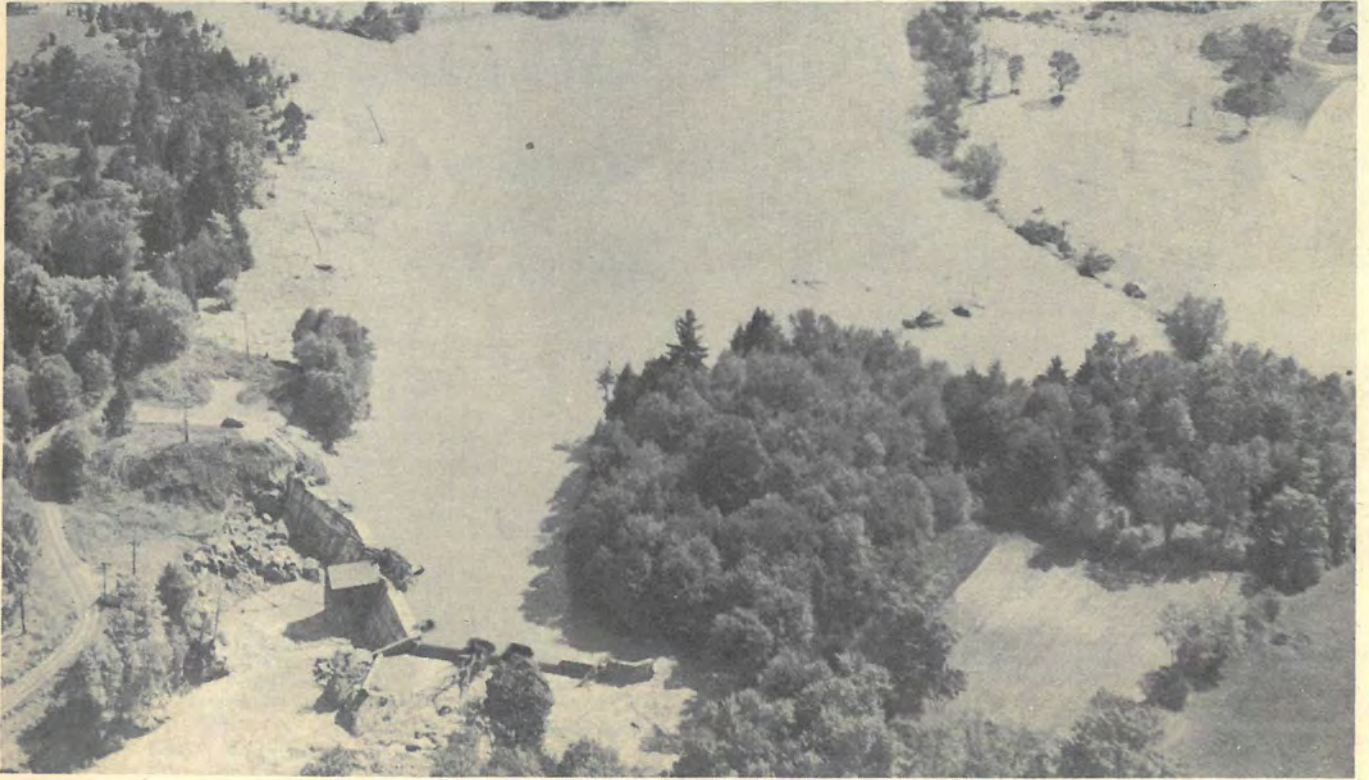
There's just one happy bit of news for me. Philip McKenzie, who had been missing since 7 o'clock last night, has been found safe. Young Phil is the son of George McKenzie, a good friend and fellow trustee of the baseball association (promoting school baseball.) George lost a young daughter while he was serving in Iceland during the war. I'm awfully glad for him that Phil was spared.

### Merusi Had Narrow Escape

I'm happy to report too that our photographer, Al Merusi, is safe after a near escape from death. Al was on a bridge near East Pittsford, shooting wreckage scenes yesterday, just a few seconds before the bridge collapsed and was washed into the East Creek.



# Flood-Battered Rutland Fights Back Raging Water Rips City's West Side



**East Pittsford Pond, showing broken dam which loosened devastation on Rutland**



**East Pittsford Road washed out a few hours before East Pittsford Pond, one-eighth mile upstream, poured its might into the city**





A Red Cross worker consoles grief-stricken woman

The horror of that first night is stamped upon the faces of these women and children, among the last to leave their homes



# Millions Lost As East Creek Rises After Dam Break

Rutland's Light and Power Returns After 24-Hour Absence But People Still Lack Water and Gas; Hundreds Still Homeless as Result of Terrific Battering Given Dwellings by Flood.

## Not a Single Known Death

BY BILL CHAPIN.

Rutland—an island of desolation smitten by the worst disaster in its long history—was still struggling without let-up last night to bring its stranded people some measure of succor after the East Pittsford dam breakup had sent flood waters smashing mercilessly through the west end of the city.

The city was still without water, without gas. The first major progress toward real recovery was made last night at exactly 9:23 p. m. with the return of electric power — bringing light to a city that had been in total darkness the night before.

Hundreds were still homeless. Scores were being quartered in the National Guard-manned Memorial Armory for the second night of the catastrophe.

An over-all damage estimate was still unavailable last night from official sources. At this stage, no man could comprehend the enormity of the city's wounds. But estimates ran anywhere from two to 10 millions.

Miraculously, not a single known death had been reported. Several had been reported missing immediately after the flood struck, but by yesterday afternoon it was reliably reported that everyone had been accounted for.

The city was helping itself—tireless workers putting in hours of toil in an effort to return some semblance of normality to the stricken community. Tales of individual heroism were numberless. Gov. Ernest W. Gibson, arriving at the disaster scene yesterday afternoon, promised all state aid possible. There was little doubt but that the city needed it.

When the pent-up force of thousands of tons of rampaging water burst its bonds at East Pittsford dam about 8 o'clock Tuesday night, the torrent gathered momentum as it raced six miles into Rutland, and literally gutted the west end of the city.

It was at exactly 8:05 p. m. Tuesday night that the Central Vermont Public Service corporation, warned two minutes earlier by a frightened East Pittsford man that "the dam was going out," notified Mayor Wayne N. Temple that the city lay in grave danger. Immediately the National Guard was mobilized, and the police department began evacuating people in the northwest section of the city.

The flood, headed by "a 15-foot mass of water" crossed Route 7 in Mill Village and headed into Rutland even as hundreds were leaving their homes. Bridges over the East creek toppled one after another as the wave came forward.

Men sprung up from the streets to defend Rutland in its bad hour and their earnest and many times heroic work did much to save lives in a battle against a savage foe.

As the water rose up along the north-south streets—Cleveland, Baxter, and up to Pine—men pitted their lives against the flood tide and came out the victors. Policemen, who fought successfully to save three men marooned in one spot, found themselves a few seconds later being rescued by some of their comrades.

Firemen, many of whose homes were being battered by the ugly brown waters, stood by their posts and guided fellow citizens to safety. Public-works employes kept up a continual battle against the foe.

At the city hall, civic officers directed their forces with speed and calm.

Volunteers flocked to the city hall to offer their services. Many with cars provided transportation both for workers and evacuees.

By 11 p. m. the flood tide was receding. In a sense the crisis was over. In another, it had only begun.

Yesterday morning, after an early fog had cleared, the sun shone down on a scene of utter destruction. From Crescent street to Meadow street, in an area taking in at least 20 streets, residents came back to find their homes submerged in a sea of thick muck.



## Rutland Citizens Move Swiftly to Vital Rehabilitation Task



Cleveland Avenue, showing roof of house lodged against another



All that was left of Water Street which suffered full force of blow





The force of the flood carried this large house several rods before depositing it at this crazy angle



First aid at home against infection

The job of shoveling the flood deposits from inside homes begins



# Industries, City Property, Homes Get Awful Blow

Industrial Plants, Lining Banks of East Creek, Suffer Terrific Damage, Homes Disappear, Streets, Bridges Are Ripped Up as Water Pours Eastward in Solid Wall After Dam Accident.

## CVPS Is Heavy Sufferer

BY LARRY HOWARD.

A bright moon last night shone on battered westside Rutland.

The thick fog that had settled over the city cleared about 6 a. m. yesterday to reveal an area of destruction extending from the meadow behind Mount St. Joseph academy north to Mill Village.

Industrial plants lining the banks of East Creek had suffered a crippling blow. Private homes had disappeared. Remaining dwellings were strewn in a twisted pattern across streets that looked like a patchwork born of some fanatic's brain.

Sturdy cement bridges had been pounded to pulp and carried away on the waves. One Rutland railroad steel girder bridge sagged into the receding flood.

Struggling workers crawled across the wreckage like ants trying to connect downed communications and to clear debris. Individual householders with shovels and pails of dirty water dug into two-foot piles of mud on porches, in hallways and in rooms.

Bulldozers, tractors and trucks fought the mud and over the roar of the motors the monotonous scraping of individual shovels was clearly audible.

Most serious industrial damage was suffered by the Central Vermont Public Service where pounding waves and tons of debris hammered the Cleveland avenue plant into uselessness.

The main sub-station of the plant, where electrical power is transformed and distributed to the city, was crushed and bent by the force of the flood.

At least two huge transformers had been tipped over. A rampaging house had crashed into the side of the main building. A 10,000 gallon tank, torn from its foundation, had been slammed against the side of the main building.

From the standpoint of time required to repair facilities, the most serious damage to the CVPS property was at the adjoining gas station. The brick building housing the gas pumping equipment was demolished. The equipment was a wreck. The gas purifiers, weighing nine tons and about the size of a boxcar, had been carried a quarter of a mile down the river.

## Where to Get Drinking Water

Drinking water is being distributed by arrangement of the Emergency committee to persons bringing their own containers at: City hall park; Rutland Fairgrounds under the grandstand, Mead Community house, Rutland Memorial armory, from a tank truck shipped in from Massachusetts, parked at the Socony gas station on State street and Columbian avenue, Ward's Texaco station, North Main street, Allen's Tydol station, Grove street and Park avenue. Hayden's Gulf station, Woodstock avenue, John Flory farm, West Proctor road, Baxter and Crescent, West and Meadow, Lincoln and Vernon, and all public and parochial school buildings.

Spring water is available at Eddy Ice company, Cold River road; Rutland Farms on South Main street, Roy Manning plant on South Main street, Clementwood spring on the Creek road.

All water should be boiled, City Health Officer C. D. Beale warned.



## Aldermen Vote \$50,000 Emergency Appropriation for Flood Relief



**Baxter Street, looking toward State Street**

**Brick wall torn from main building of Modern Linen Company**







Numb grief gripped this family group when the false report circulated through the city that Chittenden dam had buckled and more flood waters were due to cascade upon the city



Fleeing from flooded area with few salvaged belongings when report came that Chittenden dam lost its hold

# Whole City in Uproar

BY G. E. McLAUGHLIN.  
Managing Editor.

A rumor that Chittenden dam, huge power storage reservoir northeast of Rutland, had gone out caused an hour of panicky terror here about noon yesterday.

Far from having gone out, the big dam at Chittenden was safe and sound last night. A detail of National Guardsmen from Brattleboro, armed with walkie-talkie radio sets, was on hand to insure that the public was informed at all times of conditions at the dam and check groundless rumors such as the one which drove the city to panic.

What of the dam?

The findings of Rutland County Sheriff Geno N. Franzoni, who made a personal investigation of the dam and of engineers of the CVPS and hydraulic experts brought here by the company, indicated that the big reservoir is safe.

A hole, caused by a washback under the tip of the spillway apron, no part of the main structure, was seen by Sheriff Franzoni, when he went to the dam midway yesterday morning.

This condition, then under investigation by the company engineers, served as no immediate danger to the dam. The unprecedented rush of water over the spillway had caused a swirling wash which deepened to from 10 to 12 feet. Last night there was virtually no water going over the spillway.

A statement from CVPS headquarters said:

"Since about 5:30 p. m. Thursday, virtually no water has been going over the Chittenden dam spillway.

"The pond at that time was approximately nine feet below the top of the dam and approximately four or five feet below normal full-pond elevation."

But while things remained safe yesterday noon at the dam, rumor-mongers were doing their best to bring on a critical situation in Rutland by the story that the dam had gone out.

Horrorstricken Rutland people, their nerves distraught after Wednesday's happenings, believed the story and in blind panic began moving their families and belongings away from the city. Emergency radio broadcasts by Mayor Wayne N. Temple and sound-truck broadcasts by police and National Guard personnel that the dam was safe, put an end to another awful chapter in the story of the Rutland flood.

Climax of the panic, which began

## Chittenden Dam

Location—Chittenden, 12 miles east of Rutland.

Use—Storage reservoir for Central Vermont Public Service corporation.

Capacity — 750,000,000 cubic feet of water.

Last Herald report: Virtually no water going over the spillway. Pond nine feet below the top of the dam and approximately four or five feet below normal full pond elevation.

on a minor scale early in the morning with scattered rumors that the Chittenden dam was in trouble, came at a meeting during which Central Vermont Public Service corporation officials were assuring civic leaders that the dam was safe.

But the rumor was snowballing and just after 12 o'clock, 15 minutes after the meeting called by the Central Vermont Public Service corporation to give an accurate picture of the Chittenden dam picture, Police Chief J. Fred Carbine received word from his headquarters that the panic was seriously on.

The chief, his voice grave, turned from the phone and said: "Gentleman, Capt. Dinn says that something has got to be done about the rumor that Chittenden dam has gone out; that the city is in a full-fledged panic."

Mayor Temple suggested that he broadcast immediately that the dam was safe and left hurriedly with Chief Carbine and City Attorney Melford K. Smith. The mayor and Smith went to Radio Station WSYB. Carbine hurried to headquarters and went out into the streets in the Army sound truck.

In the directors' room of the CVPS, where the meeting was underway, could be heard the roar of frightened people. Cars were racing up and down the streets.

Soon after Mayor Temple's reassuring words came over Station WSYB that Chittenden dam had not broken and was safe, the panic quieted. People on the streets were still frightened but when the Army sound-truck, hastily summoned by Adj. Gen. Murdock A. Campbell, began police department broadcasts that all was well at Chittenden, the city began to quiet down.

How did the panic start? No one can give an answer to this question.

Some people told the writer that a man, whose home had been badly damaged in the Wednesday flood, told someone else that "at least the Chittenden dam is safe."

## The Weather

### Rutland Skies Today FRIDAY, JUNE 6.

Sunrise ..... 5:12 a.m.  
Sunset ..... 8:29 p.m.  
Moonrise ..... 11:20 p.m.  
Last Quarter ..... June 11  
Prominent stars—Saturn (due west, 9:01 p.m.), Jupiter (due south, 11:04 p.m.), Mars (rises 4:08 a.m.), Venus, (rises 4:37 a.m.)  
(All Times Eastern Daylight.)

#### STATE FORECASTS.

Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont—Considerable cloudiness and continued mild Friday with occasional showers and some thunder showers, principally in the north portions. Showers ending Friday night followed by partial clearing and turning cooler. Generally fair and cooler Saturday.  
Massachusetts — Fair and somewhat warmer Friday. Considerable cloudiness and continued mild Friday night



# Rumor of Dam Break Starts Panic in Stricken City



**Their truck loaded with what possessions they could salvage, these evacuees look back once more before driving away**

**Two motor vehicles buried in debris**







Children and adults visit inoculation stations by the hundreds to protect themselves and others from the spread of disease



Red Cross workers and young volunteers prepare a meal for rehabilitation workers and destitute families

Their home gone, this young couple sign up with Red Cross for aid



# Constant Danger Of Fire, Disease Brings Warnings

Unofficial Survey of Flood-Shattered Area Lifts Estimates of Damage; Mayor Issues Proclamation Banning Smoking in Many Business Areas; Water Supply Far From Normal.

## Huge Cleanup Task Begins

BY BILL CHAPIN.

A stubborn City of Rutland looked over its devastated flood area yesterday, faced the fact that total damage would run at least five million dollars, and flung itself with greater determination into the long running battle against the threats of fire, disease, and panic—perils which can follow in the wake of flood.

Forty-eight hours after the flood, in one horrible night, had changed Rutland from a thriving community into a stricken city, the people knew that life here would not be the same as it was for a long, long time.

Rutland had a taste of what can happen when citizens, shaken and jittery, begin to think once again of their bodily safety. Rumors that the Chittenden dam had "gone out" yesterday morning, entirely false, touched off a panic which was a new travail for the already crippled city. It was brought under control by swiftly-working civic leaders and the National Guard.

The city's water supply was still far from normal; with this in mind, a constant vigil had to be maintained against the double danger—fire and disease.

Mindful of the serious threat of fire in a city which had to depend on inadequate water pressure, Mayor Temple considered closing all stores yesterday, except those which carry foodstuffs and other staple items.

After two conferences attended by Temple, City Attorney Milford K. Smith, Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, a representative of the Fire Underwriters, and members of the Chamber of Commerce retail merchants committee, the mayor issued a proclamation stating that all business establishments would be allowed to remain open, subject to stringent regulations providing for "no smoking" and the posting of night watchmen.

Chief Koltonski assured the mayor that he believed adequate fire control could be maintained if the present pressure suffered no lapse and all emergency equipment, including water pump tanks, were operative.

The retail merchants committee agreed to co-operate immediately with an order shutting down the city's business life if the regulations were violated. Meanwhile the city hoped that this would not be necessary. But there was no begging

## Fire Warning

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski issued a four-point warning last night to the people of Rutland on how to avoid fires during the water scarcity.

1. Use electrical cooking equipment sparingly to avoid breaks in the already overloaded lines.
2. Don't put in large fuses if one blows out.
3. Use extreme caution with cigarettes, pipes and matches.
4. Be careful.

the fact that the fire threat would need constant observation.

More detailed reports of damage began to come in. They were not good.

Herald reporters who talked with citizens whose homes had been wrecked found that a conservative average figure for each family would be \$4000. Of course many, the worst-hit, would run much higher. Figuring 500 homes, anywhere from those that were completely wiped out to those which received minor damage, the total was \$2,000,000. Added to this were the railroad's estimate of \$100,000; the Central Vermont's estimate of \$500,000. Modern Linen officials' estimate of \$300,000, the Public Works department's estimate of \$110,000 for bridges torn out and, unofficially, \$1,000,000 for highways and clean up of the muck and debris. This came to \$4,010,000. When further estimates come in, it was believed the figure would reach \$5,000,000.



# Flood Damage Toll May Exceed Five Million



Court Gaffney, Catholic Daughters of America, established clothing center for evacuees



The Salvation Army was again "on the ball," by opening a clothing center for the needy

Army Transport plane flies decontamination units to Rutland

Boy Scouts also served







Governor Gibson interviewed by Rutland Herald reporter after his return from inspection of Chittenden dam



Care of babies one of many functions performed by Red Cross

# Repair of Gas, Water Mains Is Progressing

Meanwhile Governor Praises War Department for Speeding Necessary Aid to City.

## Curb Traffic

Officials to Reroute Travelers to Speed Rehabilitation Work; Over 1300 Get Typhoid 'Shots.'

## Traffic Snag To Rutland's Repair Work

Officials Plan Detour of All Possible Cars; Proclamation Issued.

## West End Area Impeded

The first paralyzing shock of the flood wore off yesterday.

It left the people dog tired, but it left them partially free of the jitters which only the day before had impelled a baseless rumor to break into full-fledged panic.

The city yesterday made its best progress since the East Pittsford dam had emptied its 150,000,000 cubic feet of water into the west end. It still was a long way from normal living, but these events took place:

The CVPS announced that considerable progress had been made towards restoration of the gas system, badly needed so that citizens could use cooking facilities which have lain idle since the night of the flood. However, it was not prepared to make any forecast as to when gas service would actually come back.

A great deal of gas system equipment has moved into the city, some of it from long distances, and hourly more information is gained on the problem as workers survey the damage. Water is still in the process of being pumped out of gas mains.

The huge gas purifiers which were shoved down to St. Peter's field by the flood, were transported back to the Cleveland avenue plant, arriving there at 12:30 p. m. yesterday.

The Public Service commission's investigation of the disaster and the reasons behind it got underway yesterday with the arrival here of Chairman Paul A. Chase of Ludlow and hydraulic engineer Bernard Rose of Charles T. Main, inc., of Boston.

Rose made an inspection of the Chittenden dam yesterday. No statement of findings was released last night. Chase said that he would be in Rutland every day until Monday, while Rose will remain here until the investigation is completed.

Fully expecting a heavy flow of traffic into Rutland over the weekend, and aware that the influx of sightseers into the stricken west end yesterday seriously impeded rehabilitation operations, officials made plans last night for detouring all possible through traffic around the city today.

State Highway Commissioner Hubert Sargent stated yesterday that a huge block of concrete cutting off traffic on Route 7 at the Pittsford-Rutland line should be removed by today, reopening the artery. All other major highways are passable.

Chief of Police J. Fred Carbine and Mayor Wayne N. Temple issued this proclamation yesterday:

"Due to the fact that there is only one route open into Rutland from the west we would like to make a special plea to persons outside Rutland. PLEASE DO NOT COME INTO THE CITY FOR A FEW DAYS UNLESS IT IS URGENT BUSINESS OR AN EMERGENCY."

"To the people in the City we would ask that they stay out of the flooded areas unless their business is connected with the emergency."

"Traffic on State street, the only route open, has been so heavy that at times it has been impossible for workers to reach the flooded area."

"Many police officers are now being used on traffic that are vitally needed for other duties."

"Cars touring the flooded area just to view the damage are creating and adding to the confusion."

At its severest yesterday, traffic was so heavy into the west entrance of the city that a solid line of vehicles stretched from the State street bridge all the way to West Rutland—a distance of five miles.

City officials requested The Herald to put up a bulletin urging people to stay away from the area, and the information was broadcast by radio. This served somewhat to drain off a portion of the traffic



# PSC Launches Probe of Break in Power Dam Battered City Moves Along Recovery Road



Army men take time out from their relief work  
to eat at Red Cross canteen



Evacuee reads newspaper account of flood disaster



Children of evacuees cared for by a Girl Scout





Col. Leander Harrison, Ordnance department, First Army, confers with Adj. Gen. Murdock A. Campbell of Montpelier (left) and two health officials on decontamination problems in the city. At right is Dr. Charles D. Beale, city health officer. Beside him is Edward Tracy of the state health department



Adj. Gen. Murdock A. Campbell and Col. Paul A. Chase, Vermont Public Service Commission chairman, make study of Rutland situation at suggestion of Governor Gibson

# Expert Engineer Tours Reservoirs North of City

## 1304 Receive Anti-Typhoid Inoculations

Shots to Continue Today;  
Planes Bring in Huge  
Water Purifier.

City's Health Maintained

A total of 1304 persons streamed into the Meldon school yesterday to receive typhoid inoculations made available through vaccine supplied by the Vermont State Board of Health.

Inoculations also took place at the Rutland hospital for the hospital staff and employees, with the process to continue throughout today.

Two C-54 Douglas airplanes, first to ever land at the Rutland airport, and an L5 Stinson airplane arrived at noon yesterday with a portable chlorine, decontamination unit.

Another step was taken to combat the threat of a plague when halazone tablets were handed out to families.

Adults and children—two years and older—were immunized against the typhoid germ at the Meldon school on an entirely voluntary basis, Dr. Weston O. Hammond, supervising physician, stated last night.

Inoculations were held from 10 a. m. to noon and from 8 to 10 p. m. He said that they will be held from 10 to 11 a. m. and from 8 to 9 p. m. today, and from 10 to 11 a. m. on Sunday. Adults and children who wish protection may report to the school and all persons under 18 years of age must have written permits from their parents.

"The prevention of an epidemic depends upon the total percentage of population that is inoculated," Dr. Hammond stated. He further added that persons working in the flood area who receive lacerations of any kind should report to Dr. Henry Storrs at the Rutland hospital to receive tetanus anti-toxin injections as a precaution.

He warned that the inoculations would be of no value unless the series of three injections is administered. Inoculations will be

Commission Chairman and Assistant Expect to Be in Area Several Days Conducting Survey.

## Level Drops

Chittenden Storage Basin  
Continues to Empty Itself  
Through Broken Pen-  
stock, Waste Gate.

The Vermont Public Service commission's investigation of the condition and pre-flood handling of Chittenden and East Pittsford dams opened in Rutland yesterday with the arrival of Paul A. Chase of Ludlow, commission chairman, and an engineer employed by the commission to provide expert assistance.

All day, as the engineer was making his investigation at the dams, water was running out of the Chittenden reservoir through the broken penstock and the waste gate at such a rate that the water level behind the dam was steadily dropping.

Bernard Rose, of the Boston firm of Charles T. Main, inc., consulting engineers, arrived here with Chase shortly before noon. Accompanied by Lt. Col. Francis W. Billado of the National Guard, he spent the afternoon inspecting the Chittenden dam and the remains of the East Pittsford dam whose breaking Tuesday night sent flood waters cascading down upon Rutland.

Last night, Chase stated that the engineer's study was still incomplete, but that he expects to receive the report by tonight, although it is not expected to be made public until after it has been submitted to Gov. Ernest W. Gibson, who on Wednesday requested the probe.

Chase himself expects to be here for several more days, interviewing power company officials and employees, residents of the afflicted areas and any others who may be able to throw light on the facts behind the disaster.

He declined to estimate how long he will take in his investigation, but stated that, when it is completed, he will submit the combined report to the governor.

Whether any formal hearings will be held by the entire commission cannot be determined at this time.



# Gibson Promises Aid to Help Clean Up City Travel Nearly Normal as Route 7 is Reopened

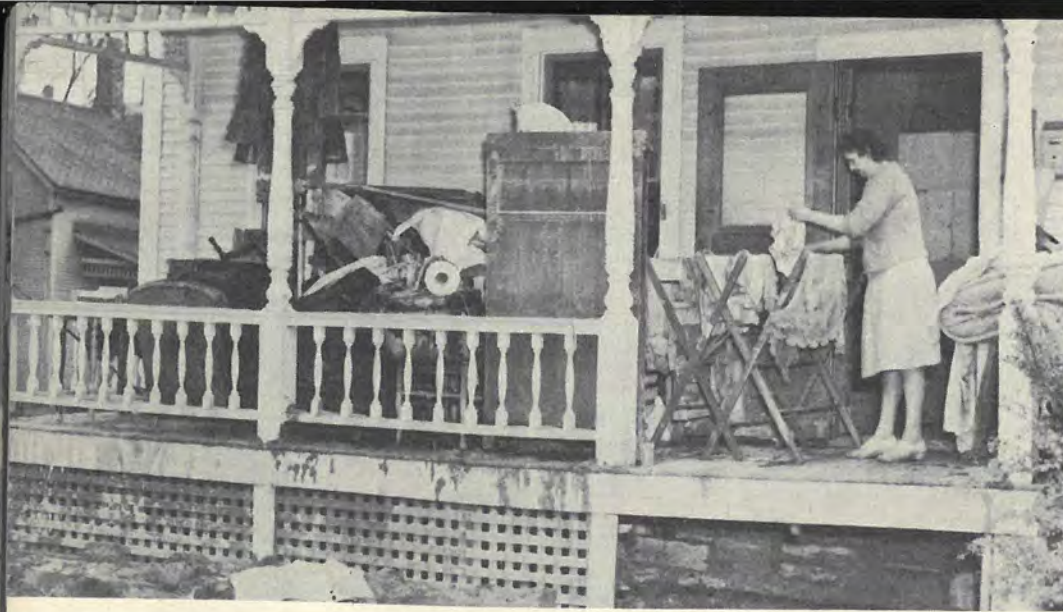


Chittenden Dam, six days after flood

East Pittsford Pond, showing area washed away







Housecleaning gets fully underway



A common sight day-by-day

A mud fort, not a snow fort



Conditions begin to brighten up

Rutland Junior College students do their part

# Temple Seeks Workers For Clean-Up Job

Cites Desperate Need for Volunteers to Rid West End of Mud, Debris.

## Health Endangered

"We need volunteers for clean-up work badly," said Mayor Wayne N. Temple last night.

Pumpers are being placed in the flooded area as fast as possible, he said. Inhabitants of flooded areas can receive help from the Red Cross Disaster office.

These points were brought out in a conference held at The Herald office last night.

The mayor reaffirmed his pledge that the flooded regions will be cleaned up and homes made livable as fast as is humanly possible.

First and foremost, however, he pointed out, is the need for volunteers to man the machines, trucks, shovels and the rest of the equipment needed to clear up the streets.

Those men who volunteer will be under the charge of Commissioner of Public Works W. V. Kallio and will be assigned by his department to help the others who are at work in the flood areas. They are asked to go to City Garage this morning, when they will be told where to report. Their jobs will be to help clear the streets, not to work in homes.

"We have equipment enough. The shortage is one of manpower", the mayor emphasized in reiterating his radio appeal made Saturday.

The mayor stated that he was fully cognizant of the trials of those who are trying to make their home, made desolate by the flood, habitable once more.

"As fast as pumpers are released from other jobs, they will be put at work pumping out the cellars of the flooded area."

Equipment has been received from District Highway Commissioner Earl R. Welch; more will be forthcoming from his department soon.

The city is already in possession of sufficient trucks to do the job. It has shovels and bulldozers.

But the chief obstacle, the mayor stressed once more was sufficient men to man the machines and handle the equipment. All able-bodied and willing men are asked to help in the emergency.

Miracles of individual performance are being accomplished in the regions, but a co-ordination of effort is necessary to achieve the maximum result.

Eyewitnesses of the flooded regions speak of the deep mire, mud, and debris wrought by the flood at its height.

All observers pay tribute to the fight being put up by those affected by the flood against trying circumstances.





## More Gas Back

**Service Restored to 35 to 40 Streets; Mud Obstructions Being Force-Pumped Out of Blocked Water Mains.**

## Experts Aid CV

**Men from Other Companies Help in Inspection of Gas Facilities; No Forecast Yet on Water.**

The uphill fight to fully restore utilities to Rutland continued unabated yesterday—progress being made toward return of gas service, while the mud obstructions found in the water system's pipelines lived up to Public Works department fears that this would prove a stubborn problem.

Commissioner W. V. Kallio and his men got to work at once yesterday force-pumping the mud from the 16-inch pipe below the city's main reservoir. Kallio could still make no prediction as to when normal water supply could be expected.

From authorities at the Central Vermont Public Service corporation came the announcement that service has now been restored wholly or in part to 35-40 streets. This included full service to the 25 streets partially returned on Tuesday.

They also stated that a special crew is following the regular crews to make adjustments to gas refrigerators. The decision to speed this work was taken because of the exceptionally hot weather.

Commissioner Kallio said that two breaks in the 16-inch main were made by his men yesterday in order to install a pressure pumper to force obstructing matter out of the main.

As a break is made, the force of the pumper is operative for some 250 feet in both directions. The second break into the main was made late yesterday, and the pumper will be worked again today, he said.

No water is now being sent through the main into Rutland since the mud blocks permit only a stream of some seven inches to flow, as compared with the normal 16 inches.

It was felt that it would be better to shut off water from the reservoir completely, in order to allow men to make the necessary repairs, rather than to let the small flow take its course.

**Father's Day was observed this way this year by scores of fathers in the Rutland west side**



# Over 300 Turn Out for Clean-Up Work in Flood Area

It's scrub, scrub, scrub, even though the job seems endless

Volunteers who turned out to do their share







Rutland youths perform communications service with the Army

# Army Bares Plan To Evacuate City

**Huge 'Tent City' Capable of Housing 6000 Would Have Been Established in Event Chittenden Dam Broke; Supplies Were Marshalled.**

The jealously-guarded secret of why the United States Army moved into Rutland—above and beyond its work of purifying and distributing drinking water—was revealed yesterday in an official First Army command release describing its plans for evacuation and care of the city had the Chittenden Dam collapsed.

The release was made coincident with the return to Governor's Island, N. Y., of a majority of Army officer personnel stationed here since shortly after the June 3 flood, and with the passage of any further danger from the giant reservoir in the hills 12 miles north of the city.

This master plan, ready to be put into action the moment the dam broke, included evacuation, rescue and relief of flood victims, traffic control, medical service, air service, military police, sanitation, and the supply of essential food, clothing and shelter.

A week ago Friday and Saturday three officers from First Army headquarters in New York, stationed in Rutland, maintained constant liaison with their headquarters at Governors Island from an office at the City hall. Last Monday afternoon a C-47 Army plane landed at Rutland airport, bringing Col. Grant A. Williams, in charge, Col. Joseph G. Cocke of the Medical corps, Col. William W. Ragland of the Corps of Engineers. These and other officers engaged in reconnaissance work before the master plan was evolved.

"Fortunately it was not necessary to put this plan into effect," said Col. Williams after the crisis was over, "but it will be retained by First Army headquarters as a guide

in case a similar disaster overtakes any other community in the First Army area".

As described by the Army release, the master plan was divided into these phases:

Nine collecting points for evacuees were selected in various wards of the city. At these points flood victims would have been assembled for quick transport by truck to a tent area of approximately 30 acres, located about a mile and a half northeast of the center of the city, at the top of North street. This area would have been studded with rows of Army tents containing cots, blankets, and other items. Larger tents would house complete field cooking equipment while others would have had showers for bathing. On Pine Hill another evacuation point would have been established, and the victims taken there would later be transferred by boat

Joseph Abel, chairman of the Mayor's emergency committee, checks over one of several pumpers used to pump water from brooks into city mains. The water was for sanitary use





Water, water everywhere,  
but not a drop to drink  
except that obtained at  
springs or brought in large  
milk tankers

## Gibson Tours Flood Area

Governor, in Second Trip  
Here, Praises Rehabilitation  
Job.

Gov. Ernest W. Gibson completed his second personal canvass of the flood, stricken area when he arrived here yesterday afternoon to inspect both the Chittenden Dam and the site of the washed-out East Pittsford dam.

Arriving here by car at 2 p. m., the Governor was accompanied on his tour by Murdock A. Campbell, adjutant general, Lt. Col. Francis W. Billado, executive officer of the 172d Infantry, National Guard, and Paul A. Chase of Ludlow, chairman of the Vermont Public Service commission, who arrived here last week to open investigation of the condition and pre-flood handling of Chittenden and East Pittsford dams.

"I most certainly think," said the Governor, "that the right thing is being done by drawing down the water behind the dam until the dam can be fixed and made completely safe."

Following inspection of the damage to both dams and "Slab City", the governor and those accompanying him met with Highway Commissioner Hubert E. Sargent of Montpelier and District Commissioner Earl R. Welch of Rutland and with Chittenden selectmen, Horton Baird, Anson Rowe, and M. W. Davis. He conferred with them about the problem of obtaining roads to the several farms in that area which are isolated.

"There are many farms in that area which are cut off completely from any aid which could be rendered to them at this time. Something must be done to reach these people in order to help them in rehabilitation," he stated.

After being in contact with the Boston office of the Disaster Loan corporation, which is an adjunct of the Reconstruction Finance corporation, assurance was received that expert guidance and personnel would be sent here. He stated that he would not know until today just how much manpower and expert help could be supplied by the corporation.

Just three weeks after his public terming of the War Assets administration as a "hopeless mess", it appears now, the governor said, that "substantial amounts" of heavy construction equipment will be received in the state.



The wreckage of the destroyed steel bridge provides a frame for this picture, showing train passing over temporary West Street trestle





# Danger Over

Emergency Committee Secretly Projected 'Evacuation Plan' in Face of Peril From Unsafe Chittenden.

## Maintained Vigil

Half-Hourly Reports on Dam's Condition Were Received But Vandals Twice Cut Phone Line.

BY BILL CHAPIN.

Reeling under the trip-hammer blows delivered by the flood, the city of Rutland has been living under the dark shadow of the badly-damaged Chittenden dam — and a disaster which would have dwarfed the one just suffered by the community or any other catastrophe in the history of Vermont.

The danger is past. Not until Thursday did city officials know this. Not until yesterday was the news made public.

With the inch-by-inch drainage of water from the great belly of Chittenden dam—weakened by an enormous gaping hole running the length of its concrete spillway—the peril hanging over stricken Rutland has been slowly ebbing. But only Thursday did engineers inform city officials that the worst could not happen—that a heavy rainfall could not tear away the remaining bonds and release a head of water nearly six times as large as that which came from the East Pittsford dam June 3.

For eight days Mayor Wayne N. Temple, his Emergency committee and their associates possessed the frightful knowledge that Chittenden dam was not safe.

The Army had elaborate plans to evacuate more than 6000 people to high terrain, to erect a giant "tent city" in the northeast highlands east of Main street, to feed and shelter all residents who live west of a north-south line along Lincoln avenue, Wales street and Strongs avenue. People living west of East creek were to be evacuated to Pine hill.

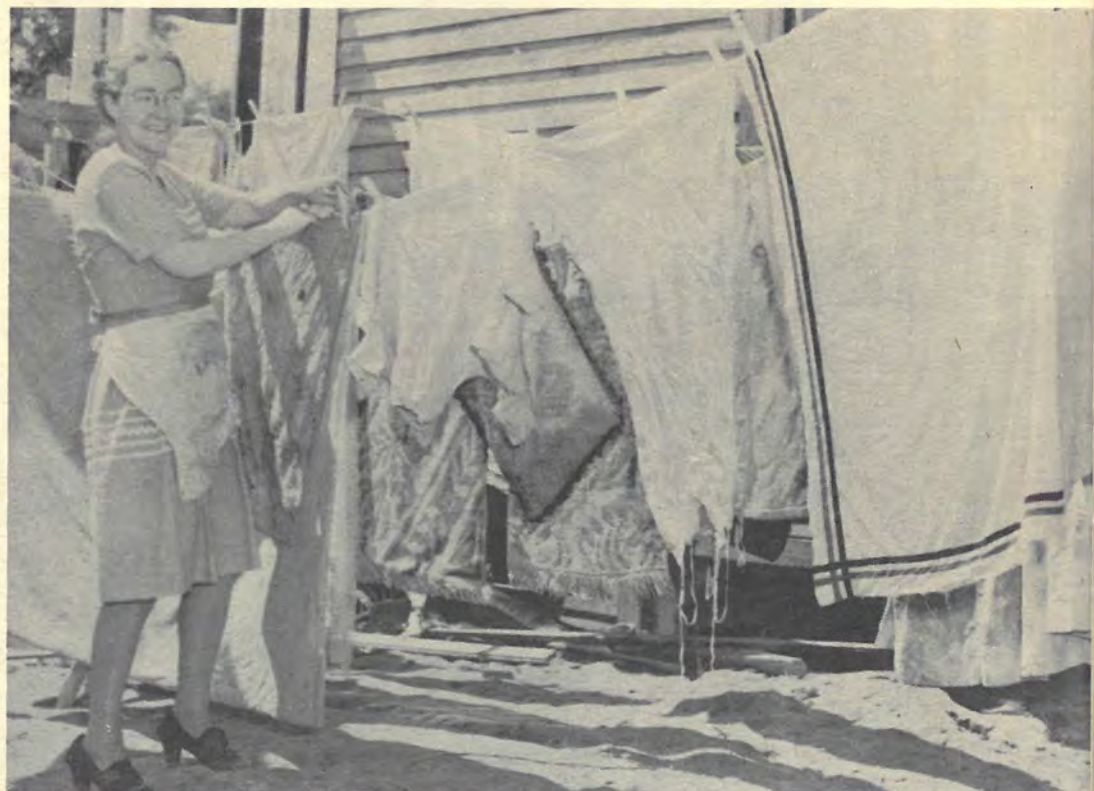
A constant vigil was maintained at Chittenden dam. Guardsmen were ready to flash word to Rutland over a direct line at the least sign of weakening in the reservoir wall. Half-hourly reports of the dam's condition were made. Yet twice the communication line was cut by vandals, and once an electric storm burned out about two miles of the wire. It was immediately repaired.



Only known flood casualty, a doll



Watch your step!



Every day was washday



## Clean-Up Chief Issues Call for Trained Supervisors; Mud-Pumping Machine Due From Schenectady.

Plans to bring in approximately 300 more paid workers to speed the reconstruction of the flood damaged western area of Rutland were discussed last night at the close of the second day of volunteer action, described by flood victims as "a good job".

Clean-up director William N. Ward said the discussion centered around the possibility of quartering the workers in buildings at the Fair grounds where nearby restaurants could be given the food concession.

Vermont State Employment service officials, working closely with the director, have informed him that they anticipated little trouble in rounding up sufficient men outside Rutland to add to the ones now working.

Ward said that the major need at the moment was for trained supervisors experienced in handling 80 to 100 men at a time.

Ward also announced last night that a truck will leave Rutland today at 5 a. m. for Schenectady, N. Y., to bring back a mud pumping machine to aid in clearing cellars.

The machine will be tested today, and if found worthwhile, more of the same type will be secured from the Army at Schenectady, signed over to the Red Cross and put to work in the city. David Rosen will be in charge of cleaning cellars, if the mud pumps prove useful, and it is understood that the pumps will be kept going 24 hours a day.

Full use of the pumps will depend on sufficient water pressure, Ward pointed out.

As the work became better organized, new word of help arrived from Montpelier where Gov. Gibson announced that the National Housing expediter has released priority claims for Rutland county on surplus bulldozers, draglines, trucks, graders and other similar equipment.

Notified of the order by Senator George D. Aiken, Gov. Gibson immediately called the office of the War Assets administration in Washington to ask that certain items of this equipment be rushed immediately to the Rutland area.

Late last night no reply regarding the request had been received in Montpelier.



Tons and tons of dirt



Chittenden dam, showing part of body of water. Panic gripped Rutland when a false report was flashed that this huge body of water had broken its bounds



Two Representatives of US  
Loan Agency in City to  
Help With Rehabilitation  
Problems.

## WAA to Aid

Earth Moving, Road Machinery to Be Offered for Sale in County; Red Cross Survey Released.

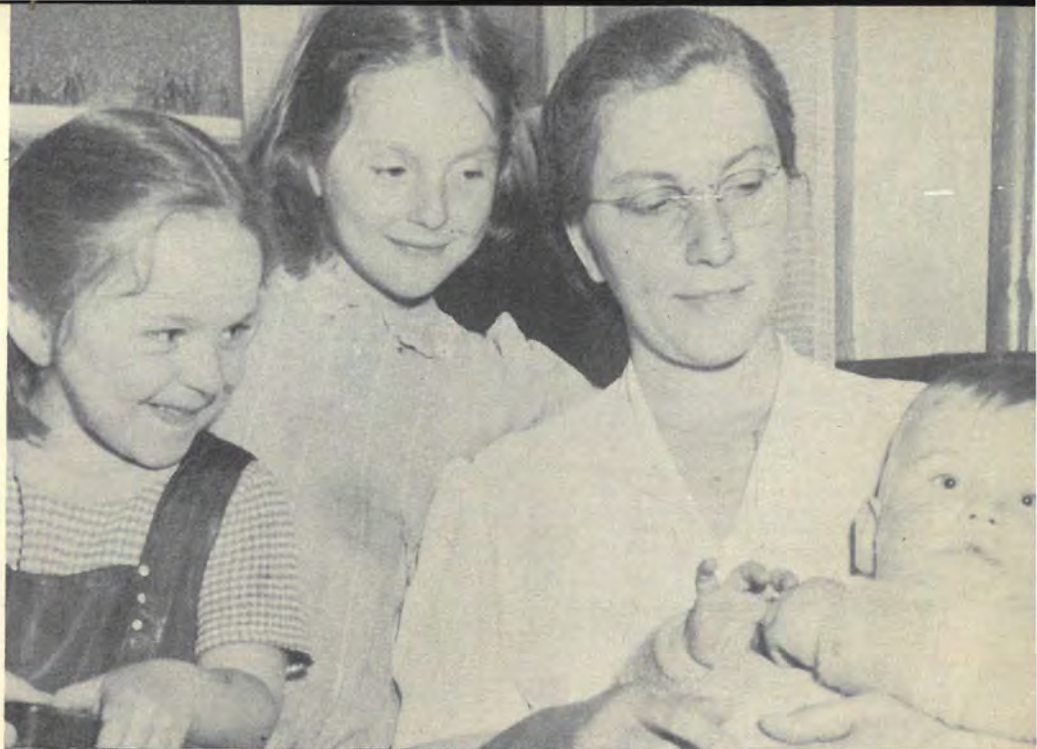
An office of the Reconstruction Finance corporation through which help in the form of loans, will be offered to flood victims in this area will be opened this noon in the Rutland armory.

Joseph H. Sheehan, assistant manager of the Boston Loan agency of the RFC, accompanied by John F. Sullivan, examiner, arrived here last night and, after a conference with Mayor Wayne N. Temple and banking and business leaders, announced that headquarters would be established here today.

The announcement followed closely on word from Washington, through an Associated Press dispatch, that the RFC had advised Senators George D. Aiken and Ralph W. Flanders that it has declared Rutland county a disaster area and relaxed restrictions on rehabilitation loans.

John Hagerty, manager of the Boston office, was in Washington and informed the senators that Sheehan and Sullivan were on their way here and that he, himself, would visit the city Monday.

The federal housing expediter already has waived restrictions on obtaining building material for reconstruction of flood damaged buildings as has used its supreme priority to direct the War Assets administration to release earth moving and road machinery for sale in the county.



Chittenden family whose home teetered on the brink of the swollen waters but held fast



Chittenden mother and five-weeks-old-baby who escaped from their home, five minutes before the rampaging waters swept it away

Daughters console their mother who was cut off in her Chittenden home for nearly 24 hours, almost on the eve of the stork's scheduled arrival

## Danger Over, Temple Gives Thanks to All

Calls on All Citizens to Concentrate on Relief, Rehabilitation.

### Agencies Win Praise

With all danger from the Chittenden dam officially declared past, ending the Emergency committee's grave concern over whether Rutland would be hit by a second, and even worse flood, Mayor Wayne N. Temple yesterday was able to issue a statement giving thanks to the thousands who have worked hours in behalf of the battered community.

The mayor expressed hope that with a continuation of this spirit, Rutland can be rebuilt into a bigger and better city than before.





# Chittenden's Story Told

Herald Reporter Describes Day  
When Flood Waters Ripped  
Village Apart.

BY LARRY HOWARD.

The people came down out of the hills around Chittenden Saturday and slept in their town for the first time in five nights.

They came out of barns and out of the homes of friends as they have been doing since Tuesday when a wall of water gouged through their tiny village and wrecked their homes.

Saturday night they stayed, the first time since the flood rushed over the Chittenden dam spillway without warning, to deliver their quiet village a stunning blow.

Every day they had come down to stand silently for a moment looking at the damage before beginning the clean-up.

And each night they retreated to the hills again where kerosene lamps glowed through the dark and tired men and women talked of "the day" and the strength of the water and the speed with which it had swept away part of their town.

They rested in the square of the town during the day and stood in groups beneath the statue of the Civil War veteran who looked out over the terrible destruction with stony eyes.

Twelve homes were gone, two others hung precariously over the edge of the stream. Where the roads had been the river now ran.

Without machines the men continued the work. In the barns on the side of the hills away from the havoc the wives tried to collect what was left of the family.

Water from side hill springs was available. Some had telephones. There was a little power.

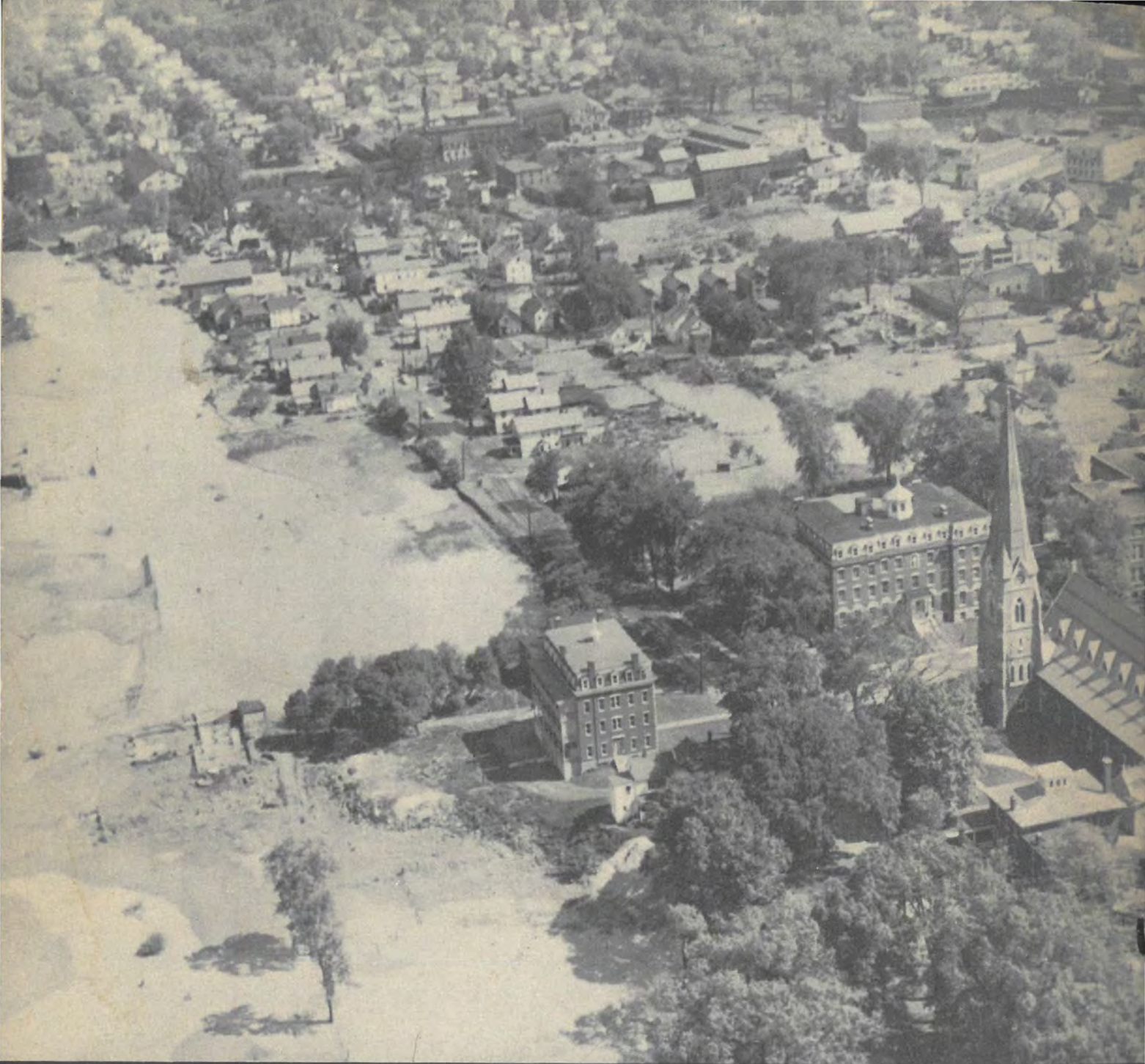


Their Chittenden home smashed by the torrent, this Chittenden couple starts life anew, their bedroom in a barn and their kitchen in a tool house

Nearly all that remained of Chittenden Village, first to feel the impact of flood waters







This is a story in headlines, text and pictures of the crippling flood disaster which devastated a section of the city of Rutland, Vermont, on the night of June 3, 1947, cutting off the city's water supply and wrecking gas and electric services.

The clippings reproduced are from the Rutland Herald, with the exception of the first two, which are from the Burlington Free Press. No edition of the Herald was possible on June 4. The pictures were all taken by the undersigned, and are used in this booklet through the cooperation of the Rutland Herald.

It has been impossible to include in this publication a record of the herculean efforts of many persons and organizations. We hope it does tell a good story of what happened and truthfully portrays the spirit with which the people met the emergency:

ALDO MERUSI